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## **Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – September 2021**

### **Area prices were up 0.3 percent over the past month, up 4.6 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.3 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the September increase was influenced by higher prices for education and communication as well as shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 4.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices increased 4.7 percent. Energy prices jumped 25.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.0 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, September 2018–September 2021**

Month	All items	All items less food and energy
Sep 2018.....	3.9	3.8
Oct 2018.....	4.1	3.5
Nov 2018.....	3.6	3.4
Dec 2018.....	3.2	3.0
Jan 2019.....	3.2	3.4
Feb 2019.....	2.5	2.8
Mar 2019.....	2.7	2.8
Apr 2019.....	3.3	3.1
May 2019.....	3.1	2.9
Jun 2019.....	3.3	3.5
Jul 2019.....	3.3	3.4
Aug 2019.....	3.0	3.4
Sep 2019.....	3.0	2.8
Oct 2019.....	3.2	2.8
Nov 2019.....	3.2	3.0
Dec 2019.....	3.0	2.9
Jan 2020.....	3.1	2.7
Feb 2020.....	3.4	3.1
Mar 2020.....	1.9	2.1
Apr 2020.....	0.7	1.7
May 2020.....	0.9	1.8
Jun 2020.....	1.4	1.8
Jul 2020.....	1.9	2.3
Aug 2020.....	2.0	2.0
Sep 2020.....	1.2	1.4

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, September 2018–September 2021 - Continued**

Month	All items	All items less food and energy
Oct 2020 .....	0.7	1.2
Nov 2020 .....	1.0	1.5
Dec 2020 .....	1.5	1.5
Jan 2021 .....	0.9	0.6
Feb 2021 .....	1.0	0.3
Mar 2021 .....	2.2	0.9
Apr 2021 .....	3.6	1.9
May 2021 .....	3.9	2.1
Jun 2021 .....	4.0	2.3
Jul 2021 .....	3.9	2.3
Aug 2021 .....	4.0	2.3
Sep 2021 .....	4.6	3.0

## Food

Food prices increased 0.6 percent for the month of September. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home advanced 0.6 percent, led by higher prices for cereals and bakery products (2.4 percent). Prices for food away from home rose 0.5 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 4.7 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 5.3 percent since a year ago. Five of the six grocery categories recorded price increases of 3.6 percent or more, while dairy and related products prices were unchanged. Prices for food away from home rose 4.2 percent.

## Energy

The energy index rose 0.3 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for electricity (0.6 percent). Prices for gasoline moved up 0.2 percent, but prices for natural gas service edged down 0.1 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 25.9 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (35.0 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 16.1 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 11.6 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in September. Higher prices for education and communication (2.6 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.2 percent) new and used motor vehicles (-1.1 percent), and recreation (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (15.0 percent), recreation (11.6 percent), and shelter (1.7 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in apparel (-1.9 percent).

**Table A. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January .....	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.7	3.2	0.8	3.1	0.2	0.9
February .....	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.6	0.1	2.5	0.3	3.4	0.4	1.0
March .....	0.3	2.7	0.4	3.8	0.6	2.7	-0.7	1.9	0.5	2.2
April .....	0.2	2.7	0.4	4.0	1.0	3.3	-0.3	0.7	1.1	3.6

**Table A. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted - Continued**

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
May.....	0.3	2.5	0.4	4.1	0.2	3.1	0.4	0.9	0.6	3.9
June.....	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	4.0	0.0	3.3	0.5	1.4	0.6	4.0
July.....	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3	0.6	1.9	0.6	3.9
August.....	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0	0.1	2.0	0.2	4.0
September.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	3.9	0.5	3.0	-0.3	1.2	0.3	4.6
October.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.2	0.2	0.7		
November.....	0.1	3.6	-0.3	3.6	-0.3	3.2	0.1	1.0		
December.....	0.0	3.6	-0.3	3.2	-0.6	3.0	-0.2	1.5		

**The October 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on November 10, 2021.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on September 2021 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in September was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.
















































The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA metropolitan area includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties in California.











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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
	Historical data	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	Sep. 2020	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021
<b>Expenditure category</b>							
All items.....		290.890	291.333	292.209	4.6	0.5	0.3
All items (1967=100).....		859.418	860.727	863.315	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....		289.881	291.593	293.122	4.6	1.1	0.5
Food.....		290.582	292.167	293.808	4.7	1.1	0.6
Food at home.....		277.535	277.010	278.800	5.3	0.5	0.6
Cereals and bakery products.....		283.924	282.737	289.631	3.6	2.0	2.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		321.214	313.448	318.188	8.4	-0.9	1.5
Dairy and related products.....		265.171	268.182	264.585	0.0	-0.2	-1.3
Fruits and vegetables.....		372.452	382.012	380.845	6.3	2.3	-0.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....		272.546	273.176	273.232	3.6	0.3	0.0
Other food at home.....		209.102	207.404	209.000	5.4	0.0	0.8
Food away from home.....		300.355	303.980	305.459	4.2	1.7	0.5
Alcoholic beverages.....		260.790	263.850	263.966	3.5	1.2	0.0
Housing.....		332.085	332.206	333.188	2.4	0.3	0.3
Shelter.....		381.105	380.890	381.714	1.7	0.2	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2).....		403.329	403.587	403.905	1.1	0.1	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....		395.231	395.806	396.130	1.1	0.2	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....		395.208	395.784	396.108	1.1	0.2	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....		393.448	394.546	395.653	11.2	0.6	0.3
Household energy.....		345.035	346.461	347.820	12.8	0.8	0.4
Energy services(2).....		343.597	345.029	346.380	12.8	0.8	0.4
Electricity(2).....		384.683	384.683	386.985	11.6	0.6	0.6
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....		305.289	309.848	309.431	16.1	1.4	-0.1
Household furnishings and operations.....		120.866	121.846	123.284	1.9	2.0	1.2
Apparel.....		107.807	111.691	110.378	-1.9	2.4	-1.2
Transportation.....		238.876	236.982	235.491	15.9	-1.4	-0.6
Private transportation.....		238.880	239.577	238.743	18.5	-0.1	-0.3
New and used motor vehicles(4).....		102.565	102.573	101.484	15.0	-1.1	-1.1
New vehicles(1).....		179.479	183.610	182.561	7.9	1.7	-0.6
Used cars and trucks(1).....		378.904	373.749	358.475	23.4	-5.4	-4.1
Motor fuel.....		326.954	330.324	331.109	35.0	1.3	0.2
Gasoline (all types).....		319.494	322.764	323.535	35.0	1.3	0.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....		320.020	323.306	324.048	35.8	1.3	0.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....		306.247	309.360	310.148	33.2	1.3	0.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....		306.233	309.330	310.177	32.3	1.3	0.3
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....		823.411	821.038	821.038	7.6	-0.3	0.0
Medical care.....		511.849	510.897	512.342	0.6	0.1	0.3
Recreation(6).....		114.741	115.884	115.674	11.6	0.8	-0.2
Education and communication(6).....		148.291	148.759	152.655	1.2	2.9	2.6
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....		1,939.965	1,970.492	2,050.902	4.1	5.7	4.1
Other goods and services.....		464.816	465.026	466.018	5.3	0.3	0.2
<b>Commodity and service group</b>							
All items.....		290.890	291.333	292.209	4.6	0.5	0.3
Commodities.....		197.297	199.101	199.515	7.5	1.1	0.2
Commodities less food & beverages.....		149.550	151.343	151.240	10.3	1.1	-0.1
Nondurables less food & beverages.....		202.451	204.844	206.070	12.1	1.8	0.6
Durables.....		98.260	99.466	98.332	7.4	0.1	-1.1
Services.....		373.713	372.791	374.093	3.1	0.1	0.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
	Historical data	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	Sep. 2020	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>							
All items less medical care .....		281.186	281.675	282.525	4.9	0.5	0.3
All items less shelter.....		251.018	251.738	252.632	6.6	0.6	0.4
Commodities less food .....		154.482	156.332	156.235	9.8	1.1	-0.1
Nondurables .....		247.439	249.502	250.888	7.6	1.4	0.6
Nondurables less food.....		208.757	211.223	212.379	11.2	1.7	0.5
Services less rent of shelter(3).....		373.051	371.090	373.110	5.3	0.0	0.5
Services less medical care services.....		360.556	359.629	361.032	3.4	0.1	0.4
Energy .....		335.719	338.421	339.416	25.9	1.1	0.3
All items less energy .....		290.195	290.490	291.365	3.2	0.4	0.3
All items less food and energy .....		290.279	290.327	291.056	3.0	0.3	0.3

**Footnotes**

(1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.